

Book Reviews

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THE WAY OF A PHYSICIAN—Jacob Needleman, PhD, Professor of Philosophy, San Francisco State University. Harper and Row, Publishers, San Francisco, 1985. 187 pages, \$15.95.

This book is written by a practicing professor of philosophy who has had a lifelong and abiding interest in medicine and science. As a small boy he was deeply impressed by the family physician who was present along with many family members at the death of his grandfather, which took place in the family home. Later, when the author was 12, this same physician cared for him when he tore both of his Achilles tendons. This experience made him aware that there is more to medicine than just science, since his doctor chose not to take the advice of a scientific specialist who recommended that the torn tendons be treated surgically. He decided to become a physician. In preparation for this, he worked in a pathology laboratory and as an orderly caring for patients in a hospital. He became disillusioned by what he perceived as an insensitivity of modern medicine and health professionals to the real-life events that were taking place around them in the course of their work. Being disillusioned with medicine and science for the moment, he earned his doctorate in philosophy. He states "that the ancient teachings about man and the universal order, just those teachings that modern science is supposed to have supplanted, have actually enabled me to love science once again."

His love, almost adoration, of medicine continued. Much of the book deals with group discussions held with practicing physicians and with letters to his revered old family physician recounting the evolution of his thought and his search for what it is that makes a true physician, that rare person, a physician healer. He suggests that this person must not only have the appropriate knowledge, but also a vital energy within his or her being that can instill or arouse a similar healing vital energy within the being of a patient. He theorizes that modern medical science has developed knowledge and technical skills, but this at the expense of identifying and developing this vital energy that is essential to a physician for healing. The true physician should embody a reasonable balance between these two forces of scientific knowledge and some kind of healing energy within his or her being. Professor Needleman further postulates a third force that connects these two and helps to maintain something of a balance between them. He believes that this healing energy is being lost in modern medicine, and that it should be sought and developed in one's own inner being if one would aspire to be a true physician.

This book will be of interest to physicians of philosophical bent, or to those who, like the author of this book, are searching for that personal something that makes some physicians better healers than others.

MALCOLM S. M. WATTS, MD

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SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN NEUROLOGY—Edited by Phillip D. Swanson, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Head, Division of Neurology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle. J.B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19105, 1984. 401 pages, \$29.50.

Neurological diagnosis for nonneurologists frequently poses significant problems. The nonneurologist may elicit neurological complaints from the patient and discover a variety of abnormal signs. The next step is the correlation of symptoms and signs with the anatomic localization, leading to the establishment of a working diagnosis. That second step may be more complex and may lead to frustration. The multi-authored book entitled *Signs and Symptoms in Neurology*, edited by Phillip E. Swanson, MD, of the University of Washington, provides a concise, practical and briefly stated exposition aimed at facilitating the task of arriving at a tenable differential diagnosis of neurological disease.

The 400-page volume contains discussions on disorders of cognition; paroxysmal disorders and disturbances of consciousness; disorders of visual, auditory and vestibular systems; disturbances of motor function; disorders of sensation; autonomic dysfunction; infection and, finally, genetics in neu-

rology. Each chapter is relatively brief yet authoritatively stated. The authors rely principally on diagrams, pictures, figures and, above all, on a large number of tables that provide quick and easy differential overviews of the problems under discussion. The text includes tables on diverse neurological signs and symptoms such as causes of excessive sweating, causes of low back pain, commonly encountered tremors, causes of salivation dysfunction and causes of gastrointestinal tract/intestinal motility dysfunction, just to mention a few. Although not exhaustive, the text discusses most of the important neurological disorders. The approach that this text takes is different from most. As the editor states, "This volume is organized into sections based on common areas of neurological complaint rather than on pathogenesis. The aim is to assist physicians and other health care providers with a differential diagnosis of neurological problems that might be encountered in an office or hospital practice." As stated, the book is not intended to be a textbook of neurology and it does not emphasize therapy. *Signs and Symptoms in Neurology* should be considered a very useful aid to general and family practitioners who seek up-to-date neurological information. The text should also provide a quick reference for medical students and housestaff in the early stages of their training. The relative brevity and the numerous tables constitute the unique features of this book.

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SOFT AND HARD TISSUE REPAIR—BIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS—Volume 2 in Surgical Science Series—Edited by Thomas K. Hunt, MD, Department of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine; R. Bruce Heppenstall, MD, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia; Eli Pines, PhD, and David T. Rovee, PhD, Wound Care Research, Johnson & Johnson Products, Inc, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Praeger, 521 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10175, 1984. 595 pages, \$49.95.

A group of outstanding international investigators met at a symposium in May 1983 and shared expertise in topics related to cellular biology and experimental and clinical aspects of soft and hard tissue repair. The textbook blends the practical with the theoretical and emphasizes cell-to-cell messengers. Emphasis has been placed on the possibility of altering cellular healing mechanisms as they are more clearly understood.

The organization of the chapters into sections could be improved, because they are inconsistently arranged. Topics that are considered are numerous, broad and in-depth and incorporate state-of-the-art knowledge of wound healing at the cellular and subcellular levels. Because this is a composite of a symposium, some chapters are presented in manuscript form, including considerable experimental data and state-of-the-art methodology, and other chapters are reviews and are more instructive in format. Many chapters include abstracts, conclusions and summaries which facilitate their reading and comprehension. Each chapter includes an extensive reference list. New topics are included, including artificial skin, mediators of inflammation and mechanisms of intercellular communication and its modulation. There is an extensive index which facilitates the reader's journey through the book.

This text is sophisticated and is not recommended for readers with only a basic knowledge of physiology, chemistry, physics, immunology and pathology. Background reading is mandatory in the area of cellular biology and wound healing. It is a book recommended for advanced readers, including medical specialists, clinical and research fellows and graduate students.

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